

Method and apparatus for start code detection in a compressed bitstream

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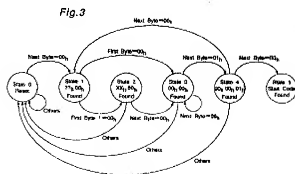
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Abstract of EP0914009

In coded representation of audio, video and system bitstreams, it is common to insert start codes to facilitate synchronization points. The start codes are usually unique patterns that cannot be duplicated within the bitstream. In the decoding process it is necessary to detect these start codes in order to begin the decoding of the bitstream in a synchronized way. In typical cases, it is normal for the start code to be byte aligned and have the first few bytes comprising of the same pattern. The present invention is a method and apparatus that exploit this feature to reduce the number of comparisons required. A specific order is used in comparing the input bitstream to the start code pattern. Using this order the decode, only need to compare a subset of the bytes during the start code detection process.



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